

Health and Wellness Advisory Committee
October 23, 2010
Meeting Summary

Attendees: Odile Saddi; Phil Smakula; Susan Emery; Julian Mansfield; Shawn Brennan; Selma Sweetbaum; Marsha Weber; Joanne Balkovich; Wendy Friar; Sara McKechnie; Pazit Aviv

Guests: Judy Levy and Tammy Duell, Commission on Aging

Introductions

Judy: Co-chairs Commission on Aging Health and Wellness Committee and works as Chair of the DC Coalition on Long Term Care

Tammy: Co-chairs Commission on Aging Health and Wellness Committee and directs the Holy Cross Hospital Adult Day Center

Commission on Aging Summer Studies

Transportation

Communities for a Lifetime

End-of-Life

End-of-Life Summer Study Group

Met three times

Emphasis on collaboration: Members of the Commission on Health, Commission on People with Disabilities; and MC Coalition on End-of-Life Care all participated. Collaboration among several groups is always positive for speaking with a unified voice.

Leaving the hospital without DNR orders is just one of the problems identified with discharge planning.

Study: When Aetna provided both hospice and curative care, patients used less curative care. This proved cost effective.

Actionable Agenda Items

1. Seek County Council/Board of Health endorsement of the Patient Bill of Rights for End-of-Life Care
 - Perhaps announce at a press conference?
 - Include on the County website, with links to and from other sites.
 - Look for funding from foundations to help promote?
2. Pilot a new procedure for first responders
3. Support MOLST legislation creating a document with doctors' orders that is applicable across settings.

Review and Discussion of Fall Prevention Campaign

Shawn reported on the various activities that took place during September.

Recommendations from the group included:

- Placing the brochure on County Website? (Yes, it is on the Senior Site under "Safety.")
- Working on Spanish translation with other translations on the horizon

Wish List:

More money for occupational therapy evaluations and home modifications

Question to follow up:

- How can we educate the public on what is available via Medicare regarding occupational therapy home visits? Or balance assessments by physical therapists.
- Let's invite National Council on Aging staff to speak on low-budget approaches to fall prevention

H&W Advisory Group Agenda

1. Book NCOA speaker for December meeting
2. Support the National Healthcare Decisions Day effort in Montgomery County, April 2011.
3. Understand Health care reform (Affordable Care Act). Discuss in future meetings.
4. Identify and promote promising practices and evidence-based programs

Group agreed to continue meeting every other month.